ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

FULL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

September 7, 2017

9:00 a.m.

Taken at:

3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 120
Anchorage, Alaska

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Trustees present:
Mary Jane Michael, Chair
Carlton Smith
Paula Easley
Laraine Derr
Jerome Selby
Christopher Cooke

Trust staff present:
Steve Williams
Miri Smith-Coolidge
Heidi Wailand
Carley Lawrence
Luke Lind
Michael Baldwin
Carrie Predeger
Katie Baldwin-Johnson
Valette Keller

Trust Land Office:
Wyn Menefee
Sarah Morrison
Katie Vachris

Others Participating:
Angela Rodell; Amanda Lofgren; Denise Daniello; Pat Sidmore; Patrick Reinhart; Michael Bailey; Randy Zarnke; Dave Brown; Dave Talerico (via telephone); Nate Boltz; Dave Hart; Kathy Craft; Lisa Cauble; Gloria Burnett; Esther Seo; Trevor Pierce (via telephone); Mike Sanders; Rorie Watt; Valerie Davidson; Randall Burns; Nancy Burke; Sarah Gillespie; Michelle Brown; Clare Sullivan (via telephone); Laura Brooks; Akiva Lieberman; Adam Rutherford; April Wilkerson; Kristin Vandergriff.
CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR MICHAEL calls the meeting to order and asks for any announcements. There being none, she goes into nominations. She states that this is the time of year when board elections are held. There are six members, with two openings this year. She continues that there is a recruitment effort underway to fill Russ Webb’s position. He has resigned from the board effective today, September 7, 2017. She continues that Paula Easley’s term will end next year in March, and it is not too early to start because the process of recruitment and interviews takes a while. She states that there is a need for two trustees, one to fill the vacant position between now and the end of Mr. Webb’s term, which would have also expired in March. She asks for any questions.

MR. WILLIAMS clarifies that, because Mr. Webb resigned before his official term expired, the Governor’s office is probably actively pursuing an interim seat and will appoint someone. He states that Trustee Easley is ending her second five-year term, and Mr. Webb’s would have been up for reappointment. He states that the person appointed as the interim is not precluded from applying to fill one of those seats.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks for any nominations from the floor.

TRUSTEE SELBY nominates Mary Jane Michael for chairperson.

TRUSTEE DERR seconds.

TRUSTEE COOKE moves that nominations be closed.

TRUSTEE SELBY seconds.

There being no objection, the motion is approved.

TRUSTEE EASLEY nominates Chris Cooke as vice chair, and Laraine Derr as secretary. She asks for unanimous consent.

TRUSTEE DERR seconds.

There being no objection, the motion is approved.

CHAIR MICHAEL states that there are new board officers, and committee chairs will probably be announced this afternoon. She moves to a staff update report.
STAFF REPORT

CEO UPDATE

MR. WILLIAMS states that staff capacity has been stretched thin for the past several months, which has resulted in reduced ability to actively engage with various partners, work groups, and communities. He continues that Andrew Stem is coming onboard as CFO on Monday, and will be here tomorrow to meet all. He adds that staff has been working on interviews for program officers' positions. That process has been completed, and those positions should be filled shortly. He states that staff has been focused internally on making sure that core operations are functioning the way they should be. He adds that the governance documents will be reviewed tomorrow. He states that trustee applications have been received, and a recruitment has started.

MS. KELLER states that three more applicants from Boards and Commissions were received yesterday. More may continue to come in for a little while. The formal deadline was last Friday, and a meeting with the panel members next week is scheduled to discuss that schedule to see if the recruitment period will be extended now that there is additional time.

MR. WILLIAMS states that the panel is made up of a trustee, with representatives from each of the four advisory boards, and a representative from the Alaska Native Health Board. He explains, that is the panel that goes through the process of reviewing the applications, doing the interviews, and submitting a collective letter to the Governor’s office with their recommendations.

MR. COOKE encourages, if applications are still being received, for all who are interested in the Trust and its mission to think about those that might be good potential board members, and get those in right away.

MR. WILLIAMS moves to the legislative audit. He states that inquiries are still being received from the folks that are conducting this audit, and we are working with the attorney to review the requests and be responsive. He continues that Liz Hodes is working with staff, but does not have any additional information on where the Trust stands. He states that the external financial audit, which is done by the Trust every year, is ready to get started.

TRUSTEE SELBY asks if the State has given any indication of a time frame for giving a preliminary report for the audit.

MR. WILLIAMS replies that the November time frame is what is being looked at, and he has not received any communication to indicate otherwise. He states that there is a health reform conference in Anchorage at the Dena’ina Center and extends the invitation to any trustees that may be interested, adding that he has complimentary tickets. He moves to the programmatic side and states that the Trust continues to work with the Department and AeHN to build their capacity. He continues that hired is an interim director, Laura Young; a program director, Bill Kurch; and a data quality manager, Celesta Cusick. They are integral in creating the system so that health information can be exchanged through various providers and hospitals. This will be key for beneficiaries down the line.
CHAIR MICHAEL states that there was a request to complement this project by helping onboard providers to get into the system, which has been one of the biggest challenges.

TRUSTEE EASLEY asks if it would be helpful to have the Health Information Exchange person talk to the Planning Committee.

MS. WAILAND replies that would be great, and notes that at the state of reform on October 3, there is going to be a panel on the future of health information exchange in Alaska. The interim executive director for AeHN, who has extensive experience onboarding behavioral health providers in Arizona, will be on the panel. She adds that it will be an interesting forum. She continues that if a presentation directly to the Planning Committee is wanted, she would coordinate it.

MR. WILLIAMS moves on to the grants administration and evaluation. Staff is currently putting out the FY18 grant agreements with the State entities that are receiving grant funding and are also receiving FY17 grant reports. Those will be analyzed, and that information will be put into a report that trustees will receive at the January board meeting. He states, again, that the FY19 budget that was approved yesterday is the compilation of work done in partnership and collaboration with folks that are working in the best interest of the beneficiaries. He reads a letter from Dr. Zink, the medical director for the emergency room at Mat-Su, about a situation involving a beneficiary and calling State Troopers for help. She wrote about the way the troopers communicated with the patient, who responded very well, and eventually the patient cooperated. She said that the trooper attributed training from the Trust that made an impact and changed the way he communicated with especially patients with behavioral health issues. He turns it over to Katie Baldwin-Johnson.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON adds that the Alaska Training Cooperative has been a big part of that training. An update on the CHOICES facility on 6th Avenue is that due diligence was engaged and space planning to look at the needs, and the conclusion is that the space will not work. She states that Aaron has continued to look for available properties, and found a few with potential. She talks about visiting in King County, Washington, and looking at the high-utilizer project that has been implemented in their hospitals.

TRUSTEE COOKE asks about the 6th Avenue property, and if the building was bought.

MR. MENEFEE replies that a purchase/sale agreement was entered into that allowed a due-diligence period, in which time an architect and space design planner was hired. After the full evaluation, it was determined that it was not the appropriate building to house both entities. He states that at that point the purchase/sale agreement was exited because it would not fulfill what was needed.

A short discussion ensued.

CHAIR MICHAEL recognizes Wyn Menefee.

MR. MENEFEE begins by asking Sarah Morrison to introduce the new employee.
MS. MORRISON introduces Katie Vachris, the new business analyst.

MR. MENEFEE reports that the C2 in the Subport of Juneau, the triangle piece, was sold for $1.3 million. The sale went through, and those folks are on their way to figuring how soon they can build. He moves to a quick update on C1, which is the homeless camp area, and states that there has been a successful outcome to the homeless camp situation. He continues that he worked closely with Trust Authority staff and with many partners. The point is that there were about 14 folks living in a very small area along the water and completely trashing the area. They had also built a four-walled structure that had a lock on the door and chairs inside. It was time to move them on their way. There was continual outreach leading up to a pre-prescribed date, last Tuesday, for eviction. Organizations were worked with to make a smooth transition to get the people to voluntarily leave, which they did.

MR. WILLIAMS went into more detail of how this came to fruition.

MR. MENEFEE states that this situation is not unique to Trust lands. There is trespass throughout Trust lands, and it is something that has to be addressed throughout the state.

TRUSTEE COOKE asks about the odd communication from the City and Borough of Juneau that came in on September 1, which tries to instruct the Trust on what our job is.

MR. WILLIAMS replies that C1, the remaining parcel, has received several offers and interest on the parcel. He states that when any sale to an individual or company that was noncompetitive, a premium is charged on top, and one of the offers, which was referred to in the letter, was someone that was offering to pay over fair-market value, which would be appropriate if we were negotiating on that. The city manager stated that he was going to fight very hard for getting the sale to go through because it will benefit the city with an alternative interest of getting a commitment for a harbor. He continues that he is solely looking at the Trust interests, and if the city benefits, that is wonderful, but it is not the driving factor.

TRUSTEE COOKE asks if a specific recommendation will be brought before the board.

MR. MENEFEE replies that the evaluation is still being done, and it is all within the purview of what was already consulted with the board.

TRUSTEE SELBY requests that Mr. Menefee keep the Board advised. He states that it is important to show sensitivity to communities and adjacent landowners that have some interest or concern about the land and show that the Trust can be good citizens. He also encourages the use of the PR folks to make sure that this sensitive issue is addressed to make it work as smoothly as possible.

CHAIR MICHAEL comments that these stories are good examples to use before the Legislature. She states that they are perfect examples of where the goals of generating revenue for beneficiaries and community goals can be better served if the Trust has more flexibility and has the ability to work toward those ends.
TRUSTEE SMITH states that he wants to make sure, once the financial analysis is done, to hold or to sell, that the trustees are conversed in how that analysis is accomplished.

MR. MENEFEE continues that the statewide land sale was announced on September 1, and there will be more PR on that. He states that 63 parcels were offered, and good results are expected. Icy Cape was a successful season with the field operations. A lot of samples were put on the barge, and the initial results look good. He states that he recently found that the Division of Military Veterans Affairs got clearance from the Legislature to sell land that they have in Fairbanks. The critical part of this is that they wanted to potentially purchase land from the Trust for a veterans’ cemetery, but did not have the money. He continues that they had some other land, but did not have permission to sell. If they now have permission and are able to sell it, then there might be money to purchase Trust land. He moves on and states that they were approached by the Great Land Trust on behalf of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees to look at purchasing land at Sharatin Bay by Kodiak. There is a fairly large parcel there as part of their habitat acquisition program, and he is heading out at the end of the month to evaluate that land. He states that Homer was met with about the aspect of the three parcels owned by the Trust on Homer Split. Homer did not agree at this point with the current administration that the Trust owns it, and there had been some further negotiations there. A possible solution is being worked toward; and we are working with Department of Law and progressing to see if there is an acceptable solution short of having to go the legal route on defending that land. He states that the Trust Land office is very busy with the legislative budget and audit. A lot of time is spent either responding or preparing responses; and then, secondly, with the annual audit. He clarifies about the trapping issue that was discussed in the public comment. There is a policy on Trust lands about how the public can use the Trust lands without authorization, which is very limited. It is without motorized equipment; no overnight activities; materials cannot be left on the land. We remain consistent to that. Then, uses that are appropriate will be authorized as needed. He states that there is the cost of creating a general permit and a cost of administering a program like that. Staff is talking about taking that into evaluation to see if there is a way that can be addressed. He continues that there is a fairly liberal aspect of allowing the public to get on there during the day and go out and about and use the Trust land, because there is no impact if it is done the way it is authorized in policy. He adds that there was a statement about how trappers and hunters are treated differently, and we are considering doing special hunting privileges and charging people for that. He moves to the land exchange and states that work has been continuous, and the survey is being conducted at Naukati. There are some high appraisal costs, and we are also evaluating surveys that have to be done on Trust parcels. Because of some of the information, the cost of the survey is a bit higher than expected. He adds that we are still within the budget, but we expect to have to ask for some more money to complete the project.

TRUSTEE DERR comments that Mike Barton, former Chair of the trustees, was the head of the Forest Service for a while and is willing to work with the Trust in working with the Forest Service, if needed.

A short question-and-answer period ensues.

MR. MENEFEE concludes his report.
TRUSTEE SELBY commends both the staff at the program office and the land office for doing some excellent work in all of the things reported today, as well as preparing the budget and working with the advisory boards and others. He states that there are a lot of folks involved in getting that, and they have done an excellent job. He appreciates all the work that is done on a daily basis, as well.

CHAIR MICHAEL states that next on the agenda is to review the FY18 partnerships and focus area allocation approvals.

**FY18 PARTNERSHIPS AND FOCUS AREA ALLOCATION APPROVALS**

MR. WILLIAMS states that these were not taken up at the Finance Committee in August, which is where they would typically be handled. He continues that the first is the Alaska Center for Development and Behavioral Pediatrics.

TRUSTEE SELBY makes a motion that the board approve a $50,000 FY18 partnership grant for Ptarmigan Pediatrics for the Alaska Center for Development and Behavioral Pediatrics project.

TRUSTEE DERR seconds.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON states that this is a request for Ptarmigan Connections which is a neurodevelopmental pediatric clinic in the Mat-Su Valley. They have been working in partnership with Mat-Su Health Foundation and others as part of attempting to address the gaps in the continuum of care, and a medical clinic serving medically fragile and high needs special needs children has been something that has been missing. They stepped up and developed this service. Provided will be early screening, assessment, referral, early intervention, infant learning kinds of services to attempt to improve the outcomes for the children with either behavioral issues or developmental challenges. This funding will go specifically to support the purchase of their testing, psychological testing, supplies, speech and language supplies, materials that would be used in group therapy, and with parent education classes. She highlights that the estimate is 300 beneficiaries.

A brief discussion ensues.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks for any objections.

*There being no objection, the motion is approved.*

CHAIR MICHAEL moves to the second item.

TRUSTEE DERR makes a motion to approve a $111,300 FY18 partnership grant to the City of Fairbanks for the Fairbanks Homeless and Housing Services Coordinator.

TRUSTEE SELBY seconds.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON states that Mike Sanders with the City of Fairbanks is on-line in the event there are any questions. She continues that this proposal is to fund the second year of the
housing coordinator position with the City of Fairbanks, which is similar to what was done in Anchorage. The Trust has an MOA with the City of Fairbanks. The focus of this is to coordinate housing and homeless services to organize the community to reduce the number of homeless individuals in Fairbanks. She asks for any questions.

TRUSTEE SMITH asks how she sees these coordinators working together, sharing information, and talking about planning for the future, and if these coordinators will develop as a group.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON replies that there is a statewide homeless coalition with the intention to organize homeless intervention, prevention, and services to come up with a plan that can be implemented across communities in Alaska.

CHAIR MICHAEL states that she was involved with Anchorage, and one of her goals was to get local government, specifically mayors, to make homelessness one of their highest priorities, and to give them a tool in their toolbox to make some things happen.

MS. LOFGREN states that it is a great project, and that through the Governor’s Council to End Homelessness, the Governor’s office has been pulling together the local community coordinators, as well as other stakeholders, to make sure that the information-sharing happens back and forth. She continues that the team is doing a lot of work in Fairbanks to put together a significant effort around strategic planning, and putting together the community’s plan. She adds that she thinks there is a lot of collaboration and continued collaboration that can happen there.

TRUSTEE COOKE asks if there is any sort of evaluation or review of what happened during the first year of this project.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON replies that a report is submitted on the performance for the year. She continues that, through the grants team, the information would be provided in terms of performance on this particular project.

MS. LOFGREN states that this was modeled off each other, so that the Anchorage framework for what is being evaluated is similar to Fairbanks, so that there is consistency in how success is being measured.

CHAIR MICHAEL suggests having them come to a planning meeting to make a presentation.

A discussion ensues on the issues of what is needed in the presentation.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON states that the Fairbanks report is due at the end of October, and will be shared with the Trust.

MR. SANDERS states that he can speak about his position and what has been done in the past six months.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks him to take a few minutes.
MR. SANDERS states that one of the first things he did was to try to get the local homeless coalition going again. A coalition structure was put in place and did the strategic plan for the first year. He continues that the strategic plan is working pretty well so far. There were a few lengthy committee sessions to get going. He adds that data-sharing was established, an MOA between the agencies in Fairbanks, to establish the coordinated entry system, and to get it up and going on time. The MOA was done prior to the COC grant application, which was a requirement. He adds that preparation is going on for the Fairbanks Symposium on Homelessness on December 6. He states that the plan with that is to implement the Alaska Supportive Housing Plan. There is another project, Homeless Connect, in January. He adds that all are working together, including the Governor’s office and Bryan Wilson from the state coalition.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks Mr. Sanders, and she states that there is a motion on the floor, and asks for any objections.

*There being no objection, the motion is approved.*

TRUSTEE SELBY makes a motion that the board approve a $100,000 FY18 partnership grant request to the City and Borough of Juneau for the Housing and Homelessness Services Coordinator.

TRUSTEE COOKE seconds.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON states that the focus of this position is to assist the community in organizing and getting services around coordinated entry, the data that needs to be tracked, prioritizing services to ensure that shelter and housing is prioritized for the most vulnerable of the homeless individuals in Juneau. The challenges in Juneau are that shelters are over capacity or low-barrier access shelters so that there are a number of homeless individuals in Juneau that the shelters are not able to serve or are not currently serving. Other challenges are cold-weather shelter is something that needs to be addressed. Last winter was a challenging winter for the community, and for the homeless individuals in the community. She continues that this individual is going to work in tandem with the City and the other services to try to organize and address the gaps existing in the community.

A brief discussion ensues on the funding and the budget, which is explained.

MR. WATT states that he is city manager for Juneau and explains that an assembly-appointed task force has been meeting and looking at funding requests from the local coalition on housing and homelessness. He continues that the coalition has requested consideration of funding for an outreach team, scattered site housing, and warming center, which total about $450,000. He adds that he would be happy to give more information and answer questions.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks about the mayor’s highest priorities for Juneau.

MR. WATT replies that there are a lot of priorities. At the last goal-setting, housing was established as one of the highest priorities, and a housing action plan was adopted. The homelessness issues are a subset of that.
A short discussion ensues.

TRUSTEE DERR states that Juneau’s government has a stronger manager, weaker mayor. No one works for the mayor; he is just simply one member of the assembly that leads the assembly. It is a difference in the governmental structures.

CHAIR MICHAEL states that there is a motion and second on the floor, and asks for any objections.

*There being no objection, the motion is approved.*

TRUSTEE DERR makes a motion to approve a $150,000 FY18 Housing and Long-Term Services and Support focus area allocation to the Kenai Peninsula Independent Living Center for the Home- and Community-Based Services Flex Funds project.

TRUSTEE SELBY seconds.

MS. BALDWIN-JOHNSON states that this is the focus area allocations out of the housing and long-term services and supports focus area. These funds would go to the Kenai Peninsula Independent Living Center who would be the fiscal agent and manager of the funds. The intention of these funds is to work with seven to ten Trust beneficiaries that are either transitioning out of API or out of other institutional care back to their communities of origin. The providers that are working with these individuals will try to establish the best, successful transition.

TRUSTEE COOKE asks how this works with getting the people back to their communities of origin.

MS. LOFGREN replies that the Kenai Peninsula Independent Living Center is also an aging and disability resource center that covers the Kenai Peninsula, Valdez, Cordova, Kodiak, and Fairbanks under their current capacity as aging disability resource centers. The pilot this first year would be targeting beneficiaries in those areas, working out a process that is more streamlined, more efficient, and then go statewide next year.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks for any further discussion. She states that there is a motion on the floor with a second, and asks for any objections.

*There being no objection, the motion is approved.*

TRUSTEE COOKE asks if the Ptarmigan Consulting, LLC, or any medical-type provider that the Trust might be making a grant to, is participating in the health information network. And, if not, could something be done to encourage that.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks Trustee Cooke for that question, and states that concludes that section of the agenda. She moves to the statutory advisory update, and states that Commissioner Valerie Davidson is here.
STATUTORY ADVISORY UPDATE

COMMISSIONER DAVIDSON states that she is the commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services. She introduces Monique Martin, the healthcare policy advisor, and Randall Burns, director. She continues that the Trust Authority and the Department of Health and Social Services have developed an incredible partnership moving forward. She explains that she will highlight four critical areas: The budget; healthcare legislation; Medicaid reform; and the opioid strategy. When the new administration came in, there was a $4.5 billion budget deficit; and right after that, the price of oil plummeted. Collectively, cuts had to be made to the budget to be able to live within our means. She states that this was a challenging, heartbreaking process, and we have tried to minimize the impact to Alaskans as much as possible. She continues that the Department has sustained over $210 million in cuts in General Fund since 2015. She adds that much of the money is programmatic funding, which is formula- and grant-based. One issue is the significant backlog in the processing of applications in the Division of Public Assistance. She explains that there is a recurring cut since fiscal year 2015, which leaves $1.5 million behind in positions. There are about 26 positions involved. That situation is not going to change unless there are additional positions to work that backlog. She adds that the Legislature did provide some flexibility in funding in that if we realize savings somewhere else in the budget, those savings can be used for additional help. She states that an indication about the state of the economy and the need for a sound fiscal plan is that one in four Alaskans is eligible for Medicaid. The good things about the Medicaid expansion is the minute it was expanded, and providers began to bill for those services, claims began to be paid. That economic benefit went to every single community in which healthcare was provided. She continues that this expansion has been the No.1 opportunity to be able to leverage the resources for Medicaid reform, along with the resources provided by the Trust, and has also been the No.1 opportunity to address the opioid crisis. Some of the other things happening is that a part of Senate Bill 74 required a healthcare authority study to be conducted. The Department of Administration recently did that and released four reports, including one on Medicaid. She encourages the trustees to read those reports, especially the one on Medicaid, which will impact all of the beneficiaries. She continues that updates to the ListServ will be provided periodically, and talks about the 1115 waiver. She states that this summer was eventful with the federal healthcare legislation that was before Congress. Various bills were looked through, analyzing the impacts to Alaska, and they also were focused on the Medicaid issues. She explains what was being proposed and how it would affect Alaskans. She states that the Governor was one of eight bipartisan governors that signed on to a letter for ways to be able to shore up the marketplace plans. He is also working with other governors on ways to deliver a bipartisan Medicaid reform proposal. She states that she attended a Western Governors Association Conference and was asked why there is so much talk about opioids. Her co-panelists gave wonderful scientific answers and were fabulous. Her response was that heroin has been around a long time. The problem was not addressed in the disadvantaged communities, and it has now grown into the better neighborhoods, which is why there is more coverage. She continues that one of the governors was quite offended by that comment, which highlights another issue. Her point was to illustrate the lesson that there are public health issues that arise in socioeconomically disadvantaged and minority communities that should be addressed immediately before it spreads to other communities. She adds that a helpful public health message is that sometimes early interventions save a lot of angst later. She goes through a number of strategies, beginning with the Legislature passing Senate Bill 23 which...
provides the authority for the chief medical officer for the next five years to prescribe naloxone to save people from overdosing. She adds that over 6,000 kits have been distributed. The other thing that the Governor did is House Bill 159, which provides several strategies. The law provides for an individual to do an advance opioid directive that is put in their record stating that they do not want opioids. It also limits first-time opioid prescription for up to seven days. She explains some of the exceptions. She states that it has been an incredible partnership with the Trust, and the resources provided to make all of the Medicaid reform things happen could not have been done without the Trust support. She thanks all.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks the trustees for any questions.

TRUSTEE EASLEY asks about the heroin works; if there is an emergency, how does the naloxone get to the person who is overdosing.

COMMISSIONER DAVIDSON replies that the naloxone distribution kits are being distributed to everyday Alaskans. She states that EMTs and the police departments are carrying it, as well as some of the coalitions that are in communities. She continues that some people think that using the kits enables bad behavior. She stated her opinion is that the folks cannot recover if they are dead.

TRUSTEE COOKE thanks the Commissioner for the presentation, stating that her knowledge and detail is amazing. He asks if there are things that can be done through, for example, the Medicaid program, to limit the dispensing of opioids and the reimbursement, or to catch situations where there are a large number of pills being prescribed.

COMMISSIONER DAVIDSON replies that Medicaid does pay for medically necessary prescriptions. One of the things that will help is the limit of seven-day prescriptions, which will give the position of questioning that provider’s medical judgment. She adds that this law also affects private insurance. She states that the other thing is for the prescription drug monitoring program. The provider is required to register under the prescription drug monitoring program, and the pharmacist also has to submit reports to the Board of Pharmacy.

TRUSTEE SMITH asks what are the best initiatives coming on-line to improve awareness of the problem.

COMMISSIONER DAVIDSON replies that it has been state governmentwide. The Department of Education and Early Learning now has curriculum about opioids that are age-specific, whether they are early childhood, whether they are older kids in elementary school, junior high or high school.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks for any other questions. There being none, she thanks Commissioner Davidson and her staff for an incredible job, and breaks for lunch.

(Lunch break.)

CHAIR MICHAEL asks Randall Burns to give an update on API.
MR. BURNS states that he is the director of the Division of Behavioral Health and begins with the API. Mat-Su has become the largest source of admissions to API, exceeding Anchorage. He continues that the problem, as it is for most of the admissions issues, is that there are patients that cannot be discharged because there is no placement for them. Then the other group is discharged too quickly, in most people’s opinions, and then are returning. He adds that the longer term has no place to go; shorter term has no place to go, but they can be discharged and then cycle back. It is not a functional situation at this time. He states that the pressure on API is that they are running 100 percent every day. There are discharging individuals that are not fully stabilized but no longer meet the criteria of being suicidal or a danger to themselves or others, or gravely disabled; which are fairly high standards. He adds that the system needs to be focused on and we are considering having a meeting with the comprehensive community behavioral health centers to talk about why there is this huge pressure on API. He continues that besides the waitlist and the admissions pressures, there is another problem: API had its Joint Commission review about a year ago, and one of the findings was that the facility no longer met the standards with respect to its bathrooms and bedrooms and, particularly, its doors. He states that new toilets need to be purchased and installed, and then all of the hardware in the bathrooms need to be changed. He adds that the new toilets, doors, and other equipment have been ordered. Once the start dates are put on the schedule, the adolescent unit will be closed. It will take three weeks to do retrofit for ten beds, and the bathrooms and the bedrooms. Once this is started, it will take six months to rotate through. He continues that they have been talking to the Pioneer Home, and they may be able to take some of the longer-term patients. He adds that it is complicated. He moves on and states that a new CEO was hired, Ron Hill, and he is doing a really good job. There is a new medical director, Dr. Anthony Blanford, who has worked in the state for many years. He talks about the certificates of need for new psychiatric beds for Mat-Su Regional and Alaska Regional. The public comment period ends next week, and then the Department has 60 days to act on the applications. One of the real issues at all the hearings related to the opioid crisis and substance abuse and the lack of withdrawal management services. Also, the housing needs do need to be funded, but this takes away from finding services for people who are seriously mentally ill. He concludes his update.

TRUSTEE EASLEY states that she does not like the idea of transferring people to the Pioneer Home, especially since there are so many people waiting to get into it. That does not seem like a solution, even a temporary one.

MR. BURNS replies that he appreciates and understands why that is not a perfect solution.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks Mr. Burns and asks that he keeps the Trust informed. She moves to the Resource Management meeting report.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

TRUSTEE SMITH states that there is a review of several consultations that have been approved in the packet. At the end of this review, there will be one motion. He asks Mr. Menefee to continue.

MR. MENEFEE states that he does not see the need to go through all that have been approved because that is on the record. He moves to the C2 parcel at Providence Medical Park; it is called
Providence Chester Creek Subdivision. This proposal is that there is a remaining parcel that has not been leased or sold. This consultation asks for the ability to dispose that property in some size or configuration, giving the liberty to either lease it, sell it, or potentially subdivide it or whatever is necessary to make a good commercial transaction. He continues that they would like to have this done in advance to give the flexibility to be commercially responsive to offers in a reasonable time. He adds that there is a current offer that has been modified since the last meeting.

TRUSTEE SELBY makes a motion that the Full Board of the Trust Authority concur with the Trust Land Office recommendation for the executive director to negotiate disposal of all or part of the Trust parcel, SM-1526-01, further referred to as tract C2, or portions thereof, at the Provident Chester Creek Subdivision in Anchorage, Alaska.

TRUSTEE EASLEY seconds.

There being no objection, the motion is approved.

TRUSTEE SMITH thanks all.

CHAIR MICHAEL states that the next item on the agenda is Nancy Burke, the Municipality of Anchorage Housing and Homeless Services coordinator.

MS. BURKE states that they are currently working with community partners and State entities to implement a project that is a very innovative HUD program. Shortly after the Mayor came into office in 2015, an opportunity arose to participate in a social impact bond project called Pay For Success. This project is a joint DOJ and HUD-funded project that examines the overlap of people who are cycling through corrections, homelessness, and that also have a high healthcare cost association. Anchorage was one of seven communities chosen for this project. The Urban Institute is running the evaluation for the seven sites, and part of their work is to have a site visit to hear how the project is going, and to understand the process. She asks that Ms. Gillespie and Mr. Lieberman go through their work.

MR. LIEBERMAN states that he is in the Justice Policy Center of the Urban Institute; a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization based in Washington. He continues that they are an evaluation contractor for HUD with regard to an initiative to use Pay For Success arrangements to implement permanent supported housing for the frequent Utilizer population who is involved in both criminal justice, homeless shelters, and health and behavioral health services. He adds that they are in the role of a national evaluator mostly focused on the question of whether or not the Pay For Success process and requirements help the cross-sector collaboration necessary to implement these projects and what the challenges and the barriers are to using that. It is a new and innovative financing arrangement, and that is the focus.

MS. GILLESPIE begins with a snapshot of what is going on in Denver, which is relevant to what this project will be doing here. She states that Pay For Success as a financial model, supported housing is a good care because it is trying to solve the problem mainly for preventative interventions that see cost avoidance or even cost savings on the back end after years of intervention. This program is really new and, currently, there are 13 projects. Three are
permanent support housing projects. Massachusetts was the first one; then Santa Clara County in California, and then Denver, where Urban Institute is the evaluator. The other two are looking at housing stability, and if permanent supported housing can stabilize folks who are cycling in and out of various systems, and if it will stabilize them in a way to keep them in housing and reduce their involvement in other systems. She continues that there are three main stages, and Anchorage is in the feasibility stage. Then there is the structuring stage where the contract gets put together; then there is implementation where housing starts.

MS. BURKE states that this project is beginning to take form with one of the first steps that were done for the proposal which was taking a draw from the Department of Corrections of people who have had episodes of incarceration. Also, being looked at is data from Title 47 holds within the Municipality; people cycling through the sleep-off center. She continues that once the potential pool of people from those areas are known, a cross-evaluation of how many people are cycling through the homeless management information system, which has recently become more robust since January. Then, there will be police data from the camp notification process that has been going since 2010, and shelter data will be looked at. She adds that the counts will be unduplicated, and we will then find the pool of people that are being targeted. She states that once the complete process is finished, there will be the ability to run feasibility analysis to identify which points this grouping of people is hitting the system and where the costs are exceeding what the budgets allow as the best use for those services. She talks about the challenge of changing grant programs as more is being learned about evidence-based practices and the need to shift those services. She states that this project allows a financing mechanism that brings additional funders to the table that are not necessarily the usual people. She continues that it would be interesting to share this with the Trust and walk through this process, which is for all to learn the number of these folks that are behavioral health representatives and Trust beneficiaries. She adds that these are the people who are falling through the safety nets and need the type of assistance that the Division of Behavioral Health helps to make available across the state. She recognizes Melina Breland, who is now with United Way. She was formerly with Anchorage Community Mental Health Services, and led their outreach team for people with mental illness in the community. She came to the United Way to be a part of this planning process to help make improvements in the interacting of people with the police and those camp notifications.

TRUSTEE COOKE asks if any data is being compiled or information gathered that addresses the root cause of why people are homeless. Has there been anything in the design of programs to try to alleviate the situation?

MS. BURKE replies yes, and some of these were learned from the Trust’s work in this area. She states that there is an overarching plan that addresses all of the services in Anchorage incorporating that first string and assessing their needs and helping them get to housing and stabilization.

A short discussion ensues.

TRUSTEE SMITH states that earlier in the year the administration called for a 13- or 14-percent cut in HUD funds. He asks if there is any danger of this program going away.
MR. LIEBERMAN replies that he does not have any information on that, but he has heard that HUD has not raised any red flags for us to date.

MS. GILLESPIE states that leadership seems to be interested in this project. It is an opportunity to bring in other money.

MR. LIEBERMAN adds that the funding for this came from the Second Chance Act and from the Department of Justice. It was transferred to HUD in a partnership.

MS. BROWN states that this is a change to propel the work in a more concerted way, and to look at alternative financing mechanisms. The financing enhances the system outcomes and is a great model that brings together a lot of the things that have been planned.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks them for visiting and asks Mr. Baldwin if there were any additional comments. There is a one-page summary of the Planning Committee meeting. She asks if he has any updates.

MR. BALDWIN adds that Ms. Burke had provided a report for the current progress and efforts which were included in the packet. He states that the next Planning Committee meeting is October 26.

CHAIR MICHAEL states that there is time to talk about board committee chairs with the trustees. The committees are Finance, Resource Management, and Planning, and we will be adding an Audit Committee.

MR. WILLIAMS states that the Audit Committee is not a current committee under the bylaws, which will be reviewed tomorrow. He suggests just focusing on the three committees for now.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks for any volunteers.

TRUSTEE EASLEY volunteers Jerome Selby for Finance Committee.

TRUSTEE SELBY accepts the appointment.

CHAIR MICHAEL appoints Jerome Selby as the Chair of the Finance Committee.

TRUSTEE DERR volunteers Carlton Smith for the Resource Committee.

TRUSTEE SMITH accepts.

TRUSTEE DERR volunteers Chris Cooke for the Planning Committee.

TRUSTEE COOKE accepts.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks all, and states that the committee chairs have been appointed.

TRUSTEE COOKE asks if the committees are of the whole.
CHAIR MICHAEL replies that she would say that it is a committee of the whole, and that will be discussed tomorrow. She asks if Mr. Williams has anything to talk about.

MR. WILLIAMS states that a letter was received from Kris Curtis stating that the deadline to provide information was September 6. Trustee Webb had responded via e-mail explaining the situation in terms of transitions. It is unclear as to whether the extension to September 11 was granted or not. He states that he found out during lunch that the September 11 extension would be fine. He also talks about the overall transition planning that will take place before the 31st.

A brief discussion ensues on the audit and the outstanding legal question.

TRUSTEE COOKE asks about the status of the legislative proposals dealing with the Trust Land Office and if the proposed legislation was ever finalized and submitted.

MR. WILLIAMS replies that there was a draft piece of legislation that had to do with recommendations on how the statute could be changed, and that is where it currently stands.

A brief discussion ensues.

CHAIR MICHAEL calls a five-minute break.

(Break.)

CHAIR MICHAEL calls the meeting back to order and recognizes Trustee Derr.

TRUSTEE DERR states that officers were just elected and, according to the bylaws, do not take place until October 1. Trustee Webb’s resignation is effective today, and Larry Norene was the secretary/treasurer. She continues that the Trust is now operating without a secretary/treasurer.

TRUSTEE DERR makes a motion that the current slate of officers that were just elected take effect September 8, rather than October 1, as stated in the bylaws.

TRUSTEE SELBY seconds.

There being no objection, the motion is approved.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

CHAIR MICHAEL states that next on the agenda is with the Department of Corrections. She welcomes Laura Brooks, medical director; Adam Rutherford, the director for mental health services. Also on-line is Deputy Commissioner Clare Sullivan and April Wilkerson, the director of administrative services.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SULLIVAN thanks all for the invite and expresses the commissioner’s apology for not being here; he had a prior commitment. She thanks the Trust for supporting the DOC over the years, which is invaluable. She states that the DOC is the largest
provider of behavioral health services in the state, with an average of about 4200 folks in facilities, and about the same on the outside. That is quite a few people in need of services; and about 55 percent of the population are mental health Trust beneficiaries. She continues that the Department’s medical and behavioral folks have studied and provided the information that shows the need to recognize the growing complexities of the mental health population due to the opioid and other drug abuse that is not only rampant on the streets, but is also making its way into the Bush, as well as the facilities. She adds that there are about 300 mental health beds in our facilities statewide, and about 58 of them are for women, mostly at Hiland; 18 for the most mentally ill females. Those beds are at a premium, and only the most severe get most of the attention. She states that she is fairly new to this level of corrections. She spent most of her time in Spring Creek Correctional Center, and can only speak to Spring Creek at this point. She states that Spring Creek has a subacute mod for those that are stabilized at basic mod, and she believes that the offenders are cared for pretty well. It is challenging to keep up with the needs of this population, which can be problematic for the correctional and mental health staff. There are periodic tragedies. A few weeks ago, one of the long-term, well-liked offenders committed suicide, which took a toll on everyone. She continues that there are other beneficiaries that are in general population, and they receive services by other clinicians. She adds that some significant strides were made with the limited resources that are really helping this population. There are transitional cells that allow a prisoner who remains in echo mod to transition out of segregation, or whatever challenges they have, to go back into their own mod. These cells not only allow them to be segregated in the mental health mod and receive treatment, but each of these cells has an enclosure outside the cell that will permit the prisoner to step out of the cell and interact with staff and other prisoners and still maintain separation. This gives more direct contact with staff who can help them, along with the other offenders in the mod, that are a great aid in transitioning folks back to GP. She thanks all.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks the Deputy Commissioner for the overview, which is much appreciated.

MR. RUTHERFORD asks for any questions over any of the information that the Deputy Commissioner offered. There being none, he moves on and states that one of the big pushes within all correctional facilities nationwide is to decrease the number of offenders that are housed in segregation, and specifically the mentally ill offenders. He continues and explains the use of the green rooms and how the beneficiaries have an opportunity to choose whatever tranquility scene to give them a break from being housed in a cell 23 out of 24 hours a day. He is also proud of the use of those transition cells within the subacute mental health units. That allows an opportunity to pull some of the severe and persistent mentally ill folks out of segregation and place them in a treatment unit. He explains this in greater detail and then talks about the substance abuse detox protocols that have dedicated resources, dedicated staffing, and have a space this is allocated to monitor and transition folks. They have also partnered with community agencies for the folks that are on methadone, to have those agencies come into the facilities and transition those folks. He goes through some of the services that are available to both the men and women, and the effectiveness of the services. He states that the APIC model is nationally recognized as the best practice for intervention with folks with mental illness. He continues that this was the first time that APIC funds and services were used to help some of the folks that have primarily substance abuse diagnoses transition out, which has been very successful. Some of the challenges that have been faced was that an RFP was put out for Spring
Creek Correctional Center that got no response. There were no agencies in the area, and they were not able to recruit anyone. He states that the current RFPs are one at Anvil Mountain Correctional Center, which is providing psych ed services, screening services, evaluations; and then there is the Medicaid Assistant Treatment Re-entry program at that facility, as well. In July a contract was awarded to CICADA in Kenai to provide residential substance abuse services at Wildwood Correctional Center, and they will also be providing psych ed services in the pretrial screening evaluations, as well as the MATR program. He continues that the last RFP asked for best and final, and those were received yesterday. It is for the Anchorage Bowl area that will cover the Goose Creek facility and the Hiland Mountain facility. In addition, there is a dual-diagnosis position that is a long-term, nonperm at Hiland Mountain. There is also a full-time position at the Anchorage Correctional Complex that is just focused on the opioid epidemic. He talks about having the greatest impact possible in addressing the substance abuse services and needs. He states that the female population is the fastest-growing population.

TRUSTEE COOKE asks how the people in the prison system are being diagnosed with severe mental illness, and who diagnoses them.

MR. RUTHERFORD replies that when people come into the system a brief screen is done that initially identifies the majority of the folks that have a mental illness, in terms of referral need to mental health. That individual is assessed, and then the clinician can render the diagnosis, or the person may be referred to a psychiatrist for a diagnosis and if additional services are needed. He states that outside records for previous treatment providers are also looked at. He continues that thanks to the Trust they have an Anchorage Community Mental Health employee that is working in the booking facility which allows immediate access to the records of any individual that may have sought services at Anchorage Community Mental Health. This is a benefit in terms of identifying folks.

TRUSTEE COOKE asks when a person is diagnosed with a mental illness, how it is determined that segregation is appropriate for that person.

MR. RUTHERFORD replies that a person diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness would only be segregated if there is a risk of harming themselves or someone else. The goal is to place them in the least restrictive environment.

TRUSTEE COOKE asks if there is a prevalence of mental illness among the prisoner population similar in the contract facilities, the private correction facilities in which Alaskans are housed.

MR. RUTHERFORD replies that Alaskans are no longer housed in contract facilities. They are all in-state.

TRUSTEE SMITH asks if a mental health unit at Hiland Mountain can be described.

MS. BROOKS states that there is a high number of Trust beneficiaries in the system, and jails and prisons were never designed to be mental health treatment facilities. The existing acute unit at Hiland Mountain was designed and looks a lot different from facilities that are being built now. She states that it served its purpose, but now the substance abuse has put the whole system on its ear trying to figure out how to deal with the prison population, the mentally ill in the
system, and the poly-substance-abusing mentally ill offender. One of the things that has become clearer is the growing women’s population, and the services available to men are not available to women. There is a great disparity between the men’s and women’s mental health units, which she explains. She states that the unit at Hiland Mountain has 18 beds, and they are always full. There are no infirmary beds, and one exam room. Two of those cells are suicide-resistant cells with cameras; but this is the acute unit for women. A few years ago, the Trust provided about a million dollars to create this mental health treatment unit for women, but it is no longer enough. She goes through the unit and its happenings in greater detail. She states that a plan to expand the mental health unit has been developed, and part of that is to really integrate medical and mental health services. She asks the Trust to consider partnering with them to work to expand services to the female population. She shares a rendering of a proposed co-located mental health and medical unit at Hiland Mountain. She goes through the proposal, explaining in detail.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks if there are any costs associated with that redesign.

MS. BROOKS replies yes, and introduces April Wilkerson, director of administrative services, who will walk through what that investment is expected to be.

MS. WILKERSON states that the estimated cost of the project is just over $2.75 million. That is the full renovation and any unanticipated costs that may come up. She continues that they were able to identify and address any abatement or lead issues that could derail the project. There is currently invested approximately $100,000 towards this project. That gave the design and feasibility study, which came up with the $2.75 million cost. She adds that a plan and partnership proposal can be submitted to the Governor’s office to keep this project on track and as a priority for the Department to meet this population, and is currently being pursued.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks staff if this can be part of the partnership grant, and if they can get funding from Rasmuson or other funders.

MR. WILLIAMS replies that a conversation was held about trying to figure out what opportunities can be tried to leverage some funds that might be able to assist in this effort. He states that also talked about was whether funding from an entity like Rasmuson was possible.

TRUSTEE EASLEY asks about the difference between a male infirmary bed and a female infirmary bed, and what an infirmary bed consists of.

MS. BROOKS replies that the infirmary at the Anchorage Correctional Complex for men is a medical infirmary which is very separate from the acute mental health units. The medical infirmary beds are staffed 24 hours by a medical nurse, as opposed to a psychiatric nurse. There is a general physician who does rounds on that unit every single day. There are 10 or 12 beds in that infirmary, and there is one cell down at the very end that is dedicated for women. She continues that there is no difference in the care that they receive; it is simply that there are one or two females in that cell detoxing in a men’s unit, which is not good in a prison system. She adds that there is an element of human dignity around this. There is no privacy in a jail. There is a stainless-steel toilet with no curtain around it, which is a big part of the human dignity element. It is not the treatment itself.
TRUSTEE SELBY asks what the funding source for the $1,375,000 match is.

MS. WILKerson replies that the request would be either General Funds or General Fund/Mental Health through the Governor’s office, and we are still seeking the other matching type.

A discussion with questions and answers on the details ensues.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks if there is a timeline in the project.

MS. WILKerson responds that there is a timeline; nine to eighteen months upon receipt of the money. The hope is to have a proposal to submit forward in the Governor’s budget by the end of November to make it into the Governor’s budget.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks all for what they do.

MR. RUTHERFORD extends an invitation to any of the trustees to come out and see the current mental health units and also the space that is being talked about at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center in Eagle River.

CHAIR MICHAEL calls a five-minute break.

(Break.)

CHAIR MICHAEL reconvenes the meeting and states that the next presenter is Denise Daniello, the executive director for the Alaska Commission on Aging.

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING UPDATE

MS. DANIELLO states that it is always a pleasure to come before the Trust to provide updates regarding budget and policy items that are of interest to senior Trust beneficiaries, and the work that is being done on behalf of all older Alaskans. She begins with a quick review on the demographic trends and health indicators to provide a backdrop about senior health needs and changes over time that will inform the advocacy efforts for the next session. She states that for the last seven years Alaska has the fastest growing senior population, people age 65 and older, in the nation.

TRUSTEE DERR asks if there will be real data this year, real numbers.

MS. DANIELLO replies that the demographics are from the Department of Labor in the State of Alaska. She states that, according to the Alaska Department of Labor for 2016, an estimated number of 125,886 seniors age 60 or older comprise about 17 percent of the state’s population. The senior population is projected to increase at 135 percent over the next 20 years. This is a significant demographic trend because Alaska was always a state with young people, and now the median age is 34. That means that half of the state’s population is younger than 34, and the other half is older, which is a significant demographic trend. She moves to the participation rates for the core programs and budget impacts for FY2019. She identified the participation rates in
core senior programs and the resource allocation services for some key state and federal budget and policy items that are being paid attention to affecting older Alaskans. She continues that the vast majority of seniors do not use senior services.

TRUSTEE DERR asks if this trend is seen in other states, as well.

MS. DANIELLO replies that a big concern she has heard about is that senior hunger and poverty is a real problem nationally. Many seniors are falling behind economically and are not able to afford the basics, such as heat.

TRUSTEE COOKE asks if people are using the program less, needing it less, or is the program less available because of budget cuts and service cutbacks.

MS. DANIELLO replies that there are a lot of different reasons, but we are seeing this trend that has been happening over time, and we have been compiling this information for a long time.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks about the substantial waiting list.

MS. DANIELLO replies that the inactive waitlist is huge, and the active waitlist is also huge. She states that it is due to the budget reductions. She continues, explaining as she goes along. She states that Adult Day is an important program, especially for family caregivers, because it provides an important break. What is of most concern in this program is that there has been a 49-percent drop in Adult Day clients over the last seven years. Senior and Disabilities Services were asked to help find the answers. Sometimes when a person is in an Adult Day program, they need more care than what an Adult Day program can provide. The next step would be assisted living or nursing home level of care is the No. 1 reason; second is that people are relocating to another Adult Day program or are moving to another area; third is that people are passing away. She moves to the question of why more seniors take part in the Adult Day services. First is that, in terms of their facility, the Adult Day program is not set up in a way that can comfortably accommodate a lot of people in wheelchairs and walkers. Because of the higher participant healthcare needs there is a need for a higher staff-to-participant ratio; there has been no funding increases for Adult Day. Plus, staff would need to have more training in order to provide services that people need at different levels of dementia. Another important reason is the fact that family caregivers wait to enroll someone in an Adult Day program because it has a bad reputation, one step before assisted living; and sometimes families are in denial. She moves to the funding which has zeroed for Senior Community Service Employment program that funds the Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training program in Alaska. She states that AARP has come out with its latest scorecard on long-term support services. They basically take a look at five indicators because they define a quality system of care and they are identified based on a consumer’s point of view. They found that Alaska ranks in the top five of all states in terms of offering a high-quality, long-term system of care. Of those five indicators, Alaska ranked in the top ten for four of them. Those four have to do with person-centered care and quality of care provided. She states that a lot of help is needed when it comes to affordability and access. She moves on, stating that this is year two of a two-year session, and we will move forward with the three advocacy priorities that were identified last year as the baseline. She adds that they will focus on protecting the senior safety net funding for those core home- and community-based long-term support services. She states that HB 236 is to reauthorize the senior benefits payment
program, sponsored by Representative Kawasaki. On Thursday, September 28, the House Health and Social Services Committee will sponsor a listening session for Alaskans to talk about their experiences with the senior benefits program and their ideas about it. There has been a lot of moving forward with technology, smart-phone technology, assistive technology and how that can provide more choice and independence for a person whether they are a senior or a person with disabilities. They would like to see those services covered by the waiver. Senior and Disability Services is moving forward with the application of the InterRAI, the new assessment tool that will replace the current assessment tool known as the CAT, the consumer assessment tool. InterRAI stands for the International Resident Assessment Instrument. She moves on and makes a few statements in terms of what is on the horizon. There is the need to update the Alaska State plan for senior services, which is pretty important for senior programs. The roadmap also needs to be updated. The hope is that both of those plans will be updated over the next couple of years and have the Trust as a partner in that effort. There is also a need for flexible funding for providers to serve people who are not Medicaid eligible to make sure that seniors are able to stay healthy and independent as much as possible. She mentions that all of the Trust beneficiaries are aging, and it is really important to have appropriated services and housing to keep them living independently to the greatest degree possible in home- and community-based settings. The Governor has been asked to recognize September 22 as Senior Fall Prevention Day in Alaska. Sitka is doing a whole week, the third week in September devoted to senior fall education activities, and a lot of other fun activities. She states that there is a special presentation for public libraries in Alaska to talk about the State’s resources for seniors. She continues that a new Medicare ad hoc committee is being established with a good response; the first meeting will be October 17. Next week is the Commission’s board meeting, which will be held by videoconference and teleconference.

A brief question-and-answer period ensues.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks Ms. Daniello for a very informative presentation. She states that next is the statutory advisory update from Patrick Reinhart, executive director for the Governor’s Council.

STATUTORY ADVISORY UPDATE

MR REINHART begins by explaining that the Council is a conglomeration of multiple entities, the State Developmental Disabilities Council, the State Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities, the Beneficiary Advisory Board to the Trust, the governing body of the Special Education Service Agency, as well as the Special Education Advisory Panel for the State. All five of those aspects are in their statute. He states that the next council meeting is October 2-3 in Anchorage, and that trustees are always welcome. The big issues are that the five-year planning process is done, and a five-year plan booklet that is readable by the public versus this long federal document that is submitted, is about to be produced.

MS. VANDERGRIFF states that the five core goal areas are: Community inclusion; support services, broad DD services in the state; employment, education; early intervention; and healthcare. Year 1 of the state five-year plan is finishing up, and there have been some really good outcomes, which will be discussed in the committee reports. She talks about the Teddy
Bear Picnic activity that is in its second year and will be an annual fixture. This year, 3500 people came out, over a dozen disability agencies, and lots of great interactive activities. There was Adopt a Teddy Bear with the Arc of Anchorage; Meet Cheeseburger, the therapy horse from Equine Assisted Therapy of Alaska; bocce ball by the Special Olympics of Alaska.

MR. REINHART mentions that at the October 2nd public session, the feature will be the inclusive playground movement to honor the people that started from that one playground to nearly a dozen, with more planned in the future.

MS. VANDERGRIFF states that the ADA Day celebration is something that everyone needs to be aware of. The 27th year of the ADA in Town Square Park was celebrated. Working with Access Alaska, a march was held around the park, and the area was chalked with different inspirational phrases about the ADA. He continues that Peer Power Alaska is partnering with the Council to put together a self-advocacy summit on September 30th and October 1st. He continues that the Council is thankful to the Trust for the support from some additional funding to look at bringing self-advocates from rural and remote regions. There is a lot of interest and hope to make this an annual fixture where there is consistent self-advocacy training. The annual Disability and Aging Summit is in its third year, and brought to you by Special Olympics Alaska and the Alaska Disability and Aging Coalition. He adds that the keynote speaker, Anne Applegate, will speak on supported decision-making, giving two presentations.

MR. REINHART gives a few updates about supported decision-making. The actual coalition that is being led by the Court System will start on September 26 with its first meeting. He continues that they will be going around the state doing community forums and trying to get people to come out and talk about guardianship issues.

MS. VANDERGRIFF states that the Developmental Disability Committee continues to monitor the IDD registry, which is at approximately 711. She continues that there is now a workforce work group based out of this committee which is looking at how to better understand the caregiver barriers to both obtaining and maintaining employment. This is for those that have a child or individual in their home with a significant disability. The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities was attended and met the new commissioner of the Administration on Disabilities, Melissa Ortiz, and attended some technical assistance institutes. She added that the commissioner spent the entire time at NADCC, and attended the large annual meeting for the self-advocates. The DD committee continues to work with the Alaska DD collaborative. The other big undertaking has been putting together the $2-and-a-quarter million grant that was put forward to the administration on community living. It is the Living Well Grant. The goal is to make this DD vision a reality. She thanks the Trust for partnering on this effort. She moves to employment and states that there is a lot going on. Ric Nelson is the lead staff for the employment transportation committee. She states that the Council was the co-sponsor with the Alaska Society of Human Resource Management for their conference, which was the second time for the Council. She continues that, before leaving, folks asked to co-sponsor the next conference which will be in September 2018. John Kemp, who is the founder of the business leadership network, will be brought in. Another thing that is being worked on is Project SEARCH expansion. At the end of the month, Aaron Riley, the co-founder of National Project SEARCH, will go around the state helping to look at expansion. The Alaska Integrated Employment Initiative, the federal employment grant, had submitted for a no-cost six-year
extension. This was originally a five-year grant, but there was enough money to roll over for a sixth year. She adds that this will allow more sustainability and continue the momentum that has been built.

TRUSTEE EASLEY asks if that $450,000 on the previous slide was new money.

MS. VANDERGRIFF replies that is for the ACL grant and will be new money for five years. If awarded it will start in October of this year. She states that now is a good time to view the new microenterprise video which shows stories of some of the grantees and people doing awesome things in the employer realm.

(Video being played.)

MR. REINHART states that August was ABLEtoSave month. He continues that about 20,000 postcards are being sent to people that are on Alaska Public Assistance. He adds that this is a great tool for people to be able to maintain their benefits and start saving money to help get them out of poverty. He continues, mentioning a few highlights from the education committee, and gives an update on the FASD work group. He talks about the Early Intervention Committee which oversees the State ILP, Infant Learning Program. He continues his presentation, explaining as he goes through the slides. He states that the Alaska Mobility Coalition has gone to a completely virtual organization. John Kern, former capital transit manager, was hired as a part-time executive, and they have gotten rid of all of the office-related expense. He adds that what used to be a $250,000 per year organization is now less than $50,000, and sustainable at that. He talked about the critical efforts, and states that the healthcare and Medicaid reform is something that needs to be constantly watched. He moves to the individual supports waiver.

MS. VANDERGRIFF states that SDS recently came out with an e-alert to talk about what this individual support waiver will look like. It is looking to get federal approval to serve 600. The ISW is targeting those folks with DD grants and also those that are on the current registry that may be able to be served that have not been pulled for that I/DD waiver. There is a go-live date of January 1, 2018. SDS is asking providers to be prepared and provide guidance to individuals and families, because as the notice-to-proceed letters are received, there will be the need to have paperwork filled out.

MR. REINHART states that the legislative committee meets next week, and the priorities will be laid out there. He continues that there may be some legislation related to the supported decision-making changes, and we are not sure if it will be ready for this next session.

CHAIR MICHAEL asks for any questions from the trustees. There being none, she thanks both Mr. Reinhart and Ms. Vandergriff for doing a great job. Before taking a break, she states that Valette has asked for volunteers that would be willing to follow up on the references for the potential candidates for the CEO position.

MR. WILLIAMS recommends that if the trustees are comfortable, it can be just two trustees.

CHAIR MICHAEL states that she and Trustee Easley will volunteer. She calls a ten-minute break.
CHAIR MICHAEL begins with a presentation by Patrick Sidmore, from the Alaska Mental Health Board and the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD AND THE ADVISORY BOARD ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

MR. SIDMORE explains the demographics of the different members of the boards and continues his presentation. He states that there is some great news going on with youth. The percentage of not drinking has been going up. There has been great work out of DBH underage drinking prevention. In comparison, the marijuana use in the previous 30 days has been really flat, and is something that is being watched with legalization. One question that was asked of high school students was about their perceptions of the risk of marijuana use. Their perception of risk is diminishing, and there is more acceptance of it with legalization. He moves to childhood trauma and states that, at the end of the month, he will be meeting with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, who are very interested in the data work that the Trust has supported. He continues that there are no national rates yet, and they've looked at ten states. There was no rhyme or reason to this other than the data was available. He goes through this in greater detail, explaining the data found in the comparison. He shares the following information from behavioral health: FY17 substance use showed about 8500 Alaskans received treatment, and these are from grantees of DBH. There are about 25 percent of the people in the behavioral health system that are receiving treatment for opioids; in 2013 it was about 16 percent. He adds that it is important to remember that alcohol is still the dominant problem in the behavioral health substance abuse system. He moves to the rebasing of rates, and states that the reimbursement rates for behavioral health Medicaid have not been updated. He continues that there is this process that has been in place, and rates matter because rates that are based on actual costs actually allow service providers to make decisions that are based clinically rather than based on what is going on in the clinics. The Office of Rate Review, DBH, the Behavioral Health Association have been developing a methodology that is going to come out soon. It is going to pay for the increase in rates, and it is crucial to stay on top of this. He asks for any questions.

CHAIR MICHAEL thanks Mr. Sidmore, stating that his presentation was very informative. She asks for anything else to come before the board. She states that the work session tomorrow morning begins at 9:00 o’clock.

TRUSTEE SELBY makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.

TRUSTEE COOKE seconds.

There being no objection, the meeting is adjourned.

(The Full Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.)